



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

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Division Director

September 17, 1998

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *adg*

RE: Site Inspection, Alan Chew, Flagstone Mine, S/047/061 (UTU-66378), Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 13, 1998
Time of Inspection: 1400 - 1815
Conditions: Sunny, warm
Participants: Alan Chew; Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To become familiar with the conditions and disturbances at this mine site

We met at the B&B Cafe in Dinosaur Colorado before driving into the site together. We then drove into the site on the road along the border of Dinosaur National Monument. From the main road (Harris Corner Drive) we turned south onto the road leading to the "Hang Glider Launch Site." There are two possible access routes to the mine site from this point. The first and preferred route is to follow the BLM public road toward the hang glider launch site and then turn west off this road and then head north until reaching a locked gate on the south end of Alan Chew's private property. The second and less preferred route crosses private property in several places requiring access through several gates and a locked gate at the end. This second route should not be taken unless accompanied by Mr. Chew or his representative.

Mr. Chew currently has a trailer parked on his private property for living quarters while he is working at the mine. Nearby and also on private property he has a truck turn around and loading area and some palletized stone. He uses a smaller truck to haul palletized stone from the quarry site to this loading area. The pallets are then transferred to commercial trucks for haulage to various clients. By using this secondary loadout area, he has been able to utilize a smaller truck for haulage and thereby reduce the size of his disturbance at the quarry site needed for truck loadout and turnaround.

After driving through the loadout area we drove down the existing road to the quarry site located near "The V" shown on the Stuntz Reservoir Quad map. Mr. Chew has created water bars in the road section down to the quarry to minimize erosion and road maintenance. The quarry is essentially the removal of flagstone from the sides of a small canyon or ravine. The Chew family has been mining in this site to some extent since the 1950's. There are mining disturbances currently located on both sides of the ravine. Mr. Chew has been using a forklift to separate the individual slabs of sandstone and then

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lift the slabs onto pallets. The stone is separated according to thickness and size. After a pallet is full the stone is strapped down and the pallet is loaded onto the flatbed truck. When the truck is fully loaded the stone is hauled up to the loadout area for transfer to highway haulage trucks.

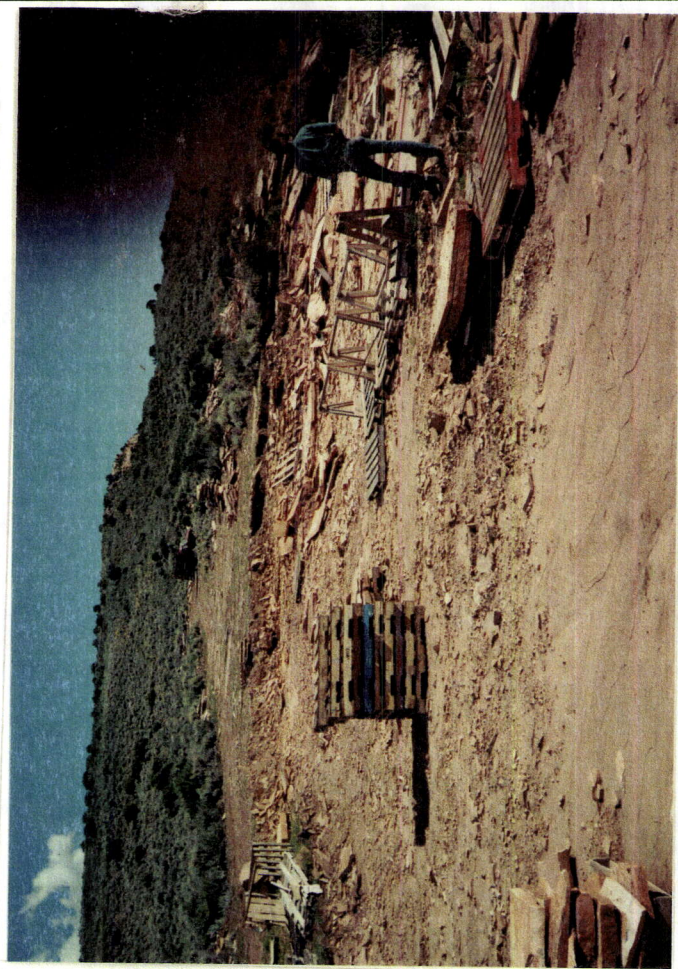
We first examined the mine area on the east side of the ravine. There is a thin layer of soils over the sandstone in the active mining area. This area contains some scattered vegetation. Photographs were taken of the east side disturbed area looking both down hill and then uphill. This area currently contained some palletized stone and a truck.

We then examined the mine disturbance on the west side of the ravine. Mr. Chew mentioned that the stone cleaves into relatively thicker layers on the west side compared with the east side. The disturbance on the west side includes a truck turnaround. Mr. Chew drives the smaller flatbed truck down to the mine site and turns it around before loading it with stone. The map submitted with the small mine notice includes an area of five acres blocked out. According to Mr. Chew the area has recently received some significant rainfall events, however, there were no erosional problems evident. Some soils have been washed down gradient, however, the vegetation and rocky conditions have minimized any erosion at the site. Photographs were taken of the mine site from this side of the ravine.

While at the site we discussed the Minerals Rules and permitting requirements for this operation and the possibility of bringing a crane onsite in the future or the removal of stone in another area by using hand tools and then loading the stone with a forklift. Mr. Chew asked if this hand tool work and subsequent loading of stone with mechanized equipment would require permitting by the Division. Removal of stone using hand tools would probably not require permitting by the Division unless the mechanized loading activity created significant surface disturbance. Mr. Chew also asked about cross country travel to retrieve a certain rock outside of his active mining area. This type of activity should be amended into the plan and the Division would examine the disturbance associated with this activity to determine if future cross country travel would require permitting. BLM regulations would also have to be complied with for either of these activities.

In conclusion, the Division currently has no permitting concerns with operations at this small mine site. The operator has requested a copy of the Minerals Rules, operators list, and statute (for reference to the new fees).

cc: Alan Chew, Operator w/copy of rules, statue & operators list
Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM (UTU-66378)
s47-61.ins



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